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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 09 DAKAR 000527

SIPDIS

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DEPT FOR G/TIP, AF/RSA, AF/W, G, INL, DRL, PRM, AND G/IWI
BAMAKO FOR TIP OFFICER
CONAKRY FOR TIP OFFICER
BANJUL FOR TIP OFFICER
ACCRA FOR USAID/WARP

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PHUM KCRM KWMN ELAB SMIG ASEC KFRD PREF PU
SUBJECT: GUINEA-BISSAU: TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

REF: A. STATE 003836,

1B. DAKAR 0325

1C. 05 STATE 000674

SUMMARY

11. (SBU) Guinea-Bissau is a source of children trafficked for forced agricultural work and begging, primarily in Senegal. Muslim Koranic teachers, known as marabouts, travel from Senegal or send intermediaries to convince parents to send children purportedly for a religious education. Children are routinely beaten and subjected to harsh treatment and often their families never hear from them again. There are no statistics or reliable estimates on the scope of the problem. The GOGB has demonstrated that it has the political will to combat this issue, particularly in terms of prevention and assistance to victims, and has devoted scarce resources to trafficking. However, prosecution would mean getting tough with widely revered Muslim teachers, a politically unpopular measure.

12. (SBU) Children have been required to beg for food and money to receive education from Koranic schools for generations. Some fathers and community leaders who send children away to learn to read the Koran experienced similar situations, although abuse appears to be growing and education dwindling. Public discussion, radio programs and solid NGO efforts, often in conjunction with police and Government, have started to bear results, pushing traffickers into more remote areas to find subjects. However, there is also a strong sense among Muslim communities, local officials and national parliamentarians that parents will continue to send children away until Bissau-Guineans have local Koranic schools.

13. (SBU) The NGO "Associaco de Mulher e Crianca" (the Association for Women and Children or AMIC) leads coordination efforts for the Government, police and civil society in terms of prevention and helping returned victims find their families. In order to get better data on the extent of the problem and assist NGOs and police to do a better job of prevention, repatriation and enforcement, Mission requests that the Department fund post's anti-trafficking project proposal (Ref B). END SUMMARY.

14. (SBU) Responses are keyed to questions in Ref A.

Begin TIP report:

Para 21. Overview of a country's activities to eliminate trafficking in persons:

1A. Is the country a country of origin, transit or destination for international trafficked men, women, or children? Specify numbers for each group; how were they trafficked, to where, and for what purpose? Does the trafficking occur within the country's borders? Does it occur in territory outside of the government's control (e.g. in a civil war situation)? Are any estimates or reliable numbers available as to the extent or magnitude of the problem? Please include any numbers of victims. What is (are) the source(s) of available information on trafficking in persons or what plans are in place (if any) to undertake documentation of trafficking? How reliable are the numbers and these sources? Are certain groups of persons more at risk of being trafficked (e.g. women and children, boys versus girls, certain ethnic groups, refugees, etc.)?

Guinea-Bissau is a country of origin for trafficked children for forced begging, primarily to Senegal and to a lesser extent Mali and Guinea. Children are sent by their parents with a marabout or intermediary to study the Koran. Key source areas are the cities of Bafata and Gabu in the east. Instead of getting an education, children are generally forced to beg and remit daily payments of anywhere from 50 cents to one U.S. dollar plus a kilo of rice to the marabout. Failure to meet daily quotas earns severe beatings. Some Koranic schools in Guinea-Bissau also require children to beg in the long-standing

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tradition of these schools, but with less abuse and more education than they get abroad. Some marabouts have plantations and require children, primarily boys but also some girls, to work in fields doing seasonal agricultural work. Boys then are sent to cities to beg in the off season.

No studies have been completed on the scope of human trafficking in or from Guinea-Bissau and no reliable estimates exist. The GOGB has repatriated 28 children since November 2002 but says there are many more. Police and NGOs working together helped to intercept another 24 children from being trafficked out of the country.

1B. Please provide a general overview of the trafficking situation in the country and any changes since the last TIP Report (e.g. changes in direction). Also briefly explain the political will to address trafficking in persons. Other items to address may include: What kind of conditions are the victims trafficked into? Which populations are targeted by the traffickers? Who are the traffickers? What methods are used to approach victims? (Are they offered lucrative jobs, sold by their families, approached by friends of friends, etc.?) What methods are used to move the victims (e.g., are false documents being used)?

Parents of young children are approached by religious leaders or intermediaries, usually from neighboring Senegal, and offered the chance to send children for a religious education where they will be taught to read the Koran. Because of traditional links between Islamic communities across borders and the existence of extended families where distant relatives may be considered "uncles," the trafficker is often known to the parents. There are only a few Koranic schools in Guinea-Bissau, but they are not highly regarded; so parents often feel that sending sons abroad is the only hope for a religious education. Marabouts are highly respected in Muslim

society (the majority population in target areas) and are able to operate with little interference. Parents receive no compensation for sending their children and in many cases, pay for the initial travel.

Begging is a traditional cultural and religious practice at Koranic schools and some middle-aged adults interviewed by PolOff had similar experiences in their youth. However, physical abuse of children and profits for marabouts appear to be growing while education has all but disappeared. The historical link of begging and Koranic schools creates a level of acceptance among community members and impedes efforts by NGOs and governments to convince parents to stop sending children. AMIC noted that some institutions (which they term "madrassas") are better than others and require little begging.

The primary route to Senegal is through the town of Pirada, where there are police and migration controls. Another key exit point is the town of Sao Domingos in the northwest. Almost all traffic is overland, reportedly by foot, taxi or animal driven carts to the border. Non-vehicular traffic can easily avoid border outposts by walking on foot trails through the bush. Border guards are aware of the problem and, according to the leading national NGO on trafficking, AMIC, cooperate on interdiction and repatriation. Yet remoteness, low salaries, which sometimes go unpaid for months at a time, and respect for marabouts makes guards vulnerable to bribes.

Living conditions for trafficked children on the streets of Senegal's cities can be heartbreakng. Children who cannot raise the daily payment are beaten so severely that they often don't return, choosing to sleep in the street rather than face punishment. It is common for families to go years without receiving any word from children. Some children seek help from the Ginddi Center, NGOs, neighborhood women whom they adopt as mother figures, or the Bissau-Guinean Embassy in Dakar. Others simply walk back to Guinea-Bissau. Some parents seek help from police or NGOs to reunite with children, but they are the exception. There have been a few successful cases of

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cross-border government-police-NGO cooperation to reunite families with children.

Political will exists to assist victims and prevent trafficking through raising awareness, especially in key institutions such as the government's Institute of Women and Children, the Ministry of Justice, the Foreign Ministry, and among individuals throughout the police force. However, there is no high-level coordinated effort to fight TIP. There is little evident political will to confront TIP in terms of law enforcement. According to several people interviewed from local governments and NGOs, enforcement against marabouts is a politically complicated issue because politicians believe any action against them will be interpreted by a major voting bloc as action against the Islamic faith.

Q.C. What are the limitations on the government's ability to address this problem in practice? For example, is funding for police or other institutions inadequate? Is overall corruption a problem? Does the Government lack the resources to aid victims?

Guinea-Bissau lacks almost everything. Police forces have received no training on trafficking. They do not have vehicles to patrol borders; instead they rely on foot patrols. Communication from border police in Pirada to the central police headquarters in Gabu, about two hours away by bus and where traffickers are supposed to be sent once detained, is by landline phone that often does not function. Police in Gabu have only one computer and no

effective archive system to facilitate case research. While police are now receiving regular salaries, they are still owed nine months of arrears from 1999, when they worked essentially for free. Repatriated victims sometimes live with the Gabu police commissioner until parents can be located, a process that sometimes takes months because children do not remember where they are from. The Bissau-Guinean Ambassador to Senegal also houses children awaiting repatriation when no alternative can be found. There is no shelter in Gabu, which receives a steady trickle of children returning from Senegal in search of families.

Another major limitation is a political crisis that has pitted the President against the African Party for the Independence of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde (PAIGC) the largest party in the Popular National Assembly (ANP). No significant legislative or policy advances are likely to be made until the ANP approves the government's program and budget and the PAIGC drops its claim that Prime Minister Aristides Gomes' appointment is unconstitutional.

While corruption is likely a factor in the remote towns and border areas, AMIC believes there is no high-level corruption on this issue and no one in the Government is getting rich off the trafficking of children.

ID. To what extent does the Government systematically monitor its anti-trafficking efforts (on all fronts -- prosecution, prevention and victim protection) and periodically make available, publicly or privately and directly or through regional/international organizations, its assessments of these anti-trafficking efforts?

The GOGB does not make systematic efforts and does not publish assessments of its performance. A police inspector under the Ministry of Interior has official responsibility for coordinating enforcement and cooperation with UNICEF, but these efforts are nascent and poorly organized.

PARA 22. PREVENTION:

IA. Does the Government acknowledge that trafficking is a problem in that country? If no, why not?

The Government recognizes the trafficking problem and combats it on many fronts. The Institute of Women and Children in cooperation with UNICEF and Muslim NGO ALANSAR, sponsored a four-day conference in April 2005 to study the issue, identify root causes and educate the

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public. The Government contributes eight million CFA francs (about USD 16,000) per year to the operating budget of AMIC, the country's strongest advocate in fighting trafficking of children.

IB. Which government agencies are involved in anti-trafficking efforts and which agency, if any, has the lead?

Agencies involved include the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, and the Institute of Women and Children. There is no task force; so no agency has a clear lead.

IC. Are there or have there been government-run anti-trafficking information or education campaigns? If so, briefly describe the campaign(s), including their objectives and effectiveness. Do these campaigns target potential trafficking victims and/or the demand for trafficking (e.g. "clients" of prostitutes or beneficiaries of forced labor).

The Institute of Women and Children sponsored a conference

to raise awareness (see paragraph 22 A). AMIC, which receives government funding, conducts regular awareness efforts on radio stations in the area of Gabu. The Bissau-Guinean Ambassador to Senegal has also contributed to awareness efforts on the radio. These efforts are aimed at parents in Muslim communities, notifying them of the dangers of sending their children away for Koranic studies. AMIC notes some effectiveness, saying Gabu itself has seen a drop in trafficked children, but traffickers are moving out to outlying areas where people are not yet as well informed. AMIC and police also use radio as a last resort in searching for parents of repatriated children.

1D. Does the Government support other programs to prevent trafficking (e.g., to promote women's participation in economic decision-making or efforts to keep children in school)? Please explain.

The Ministry of Justice, in cooperation with UNICEF, conducted a significant prevention campaign in January 2006. Over the course of a month, 28,000 children were registered and given identity papers in the Gabu region as an anti-trafficking measure. While this may seem like an effort the Justice Ministry should conduct regardless, what makes it remarkable is that the Ministry dedicated resources to take the registration effort to the field. Three main factors work against parents registering their children in the Gabu region: distance to the capital, cost and ignorance. The Justice Ministry overcame those and in so doing, made it harder for traffickers to pass through border checks with children who are not their own. Migration officials at the main border crossing of Pirada claim they now do not let anyone leave the country with a child unless the parent is present, due to trafficking concerns. Of course the border remains porous and guards may be corrupt or unprofessional.

There is no Question E.

1F. What is the relationship between government officials, NGOs, other relevant organizations and other elements of civil society on the trafficking issue?

Relevant actors cooperate well and recognize the importance of close coordination. AMIC reports that it gets very good cooperation from local police in assisting repatriated children and finding parents. There is a good understanding of issues and updated policies by border police and migration officials to stop traffickers from moving children out of the country. AMIC and police work with religious and community leaders in the regions of Gabu and Bafata. UNICEF says the Ministry of Justice and the Muslim NGO ALANSAR are very strong on the issue. Perhaps the biggest and most noticeable gap is the courts, which could only point to two pending trafficking cases and none that had been successfully prosecuted with traffickers serving time. Another concern is the inspector at the Ministry of the Interior who claims to be

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the coordinator on enforcement, but does not have a clear picture of prosecution efforts in the Gabu region.

1G. Does it monitor immigration and emigration patterns for evidence of trafficking? Do law enforcement agencies screen for potential trafficking victims along borders?

The Government does not systematically monitor its borders for TIP, but border guards have been educated by AMIC. Police provided migration officials at Pirada with photos of four men who were detained trying to traffic boys to Senegal. Migration officials described a process they follow when they identify a potential trafficker: they detain the person if the adult cannot prove he is the father, contact the police in Gabu and arrange

transportation back to police headquarters in Gabu. Unfortunately, these are barely treated as crimes and traffickers are generally released while parents are contacted to pick up their children.

Police claim to have increased foot patrols of the border on the many paths through the bush into Senegal to stem trafficking.

IH. Is there a mechanism for coordination and communication between various agencies, internal, international, and multilateral on trafficking-related matters, such as a multi-agency working group or a task force? Does the Government have a trafficking in persons working group or single point of contact? Does the Government have a public corruption task force?

With a number of security concerns in the country, such as increased international drug trafficking and the urgent need for security sector reform of the bloated, civil-war prone military, and numerous social problems, such as a lack of access to adequate education and health care for most of its citizens, TIP has not surprisingly been low on the priority list. However, even with these other challenges, the Government is doing what it can with the few resources it has available to it. The Ministry of Interior has an inspector in charge of crimes against children who is responsible for coordination on law enforcement of TIP and cooperation with UNICEF. The Institute of Women and Children has taken the lead with respect to public awareness and marshalling government and international community efforts. The National Assembly's Ad Hoc Committee for Women's and Children's Issues is also focused on TIP and has managed to get it introduced to the legislature's agenda this year. However, the most effective actors are the NGOs and international organizations.

There is no Question I.)

IJ. Does the Government have a national plan of action to address trafficking in persons? If so, which agencies were involved in developing it? Were NGOs consulted in the process? What steps has the Government taken to disseminate the action plan?

There is no national plan of action to combat TIP.

PARA 23. INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF TRAFFICKERS:

For questions A-D, posts should highlight in particular whether or not the country has enacted any new legislation since the last TIP report.

IA. Does the country have a law specifically prohibiting trafficking in persons--both trafficking for sexual exploitation and trafficking for non-sexual purposes (e.g. forced labor)? If so, what is the law? Does the law(s) cover both internal and external (transnational) forms of trafficking? If not, under what other laws can traffickers be prosecuted? For example, are there laws against slavery or the exploitation of prostitution by means of coercion or fraud? Are these other laws being used in trafficking cases? Are these laws, taken together, adequate to cover the full scope of trafficking in persons? Please provide a full inventory of trafficking laws, including civil penalties (e.g., civil

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forfeiture laws and laws against illegal debt).

There is no law specifically prohibiting trafficking in people. Other laws are currently being used, although they are weakly applied. The local judge in Gabu described one case in which a father and his brother were being prosecuted under Art. 196 of the penal code, removal of minors. Other laws against sexual exploitation, abuse

and kidnapping of minors may also be useful in prosecuting trafficking cases. Prostitution is illegal, as is pimping.

1B. What are the penalties for traffickers of people for sexual exploitation? For traffickers of people for labor exploitation?

There is no trafficking law, but the law against kidnapping, which may be used in child trafficking, carries a penalty of two to ten years in prison.

1C. What are the penalties for rape or forcible sexual assault? How do they compare to the penalty for sex trafficking?

The penalty for rape is between one and five years in prison. Sex trafficking is not specifically covered under the law and in fact does not appear to be a widespread problem in Guinea-Bissau.

1D. Is prostitution legalized or decriminalized? Specifically, are the activities of the prostitute criminalized? Are the activities of the brothel owner/operator, clients, pimps, and enforcers criminalized? Are these laws enforced? If prostitution is legal and regulated, what is the legal minimum age for this activity? Note that in many countries with federalist systems, prostitution laws may be covered by state, local and provincial authorities.

The activities of the prostitute, brothel owner, pimp, and customer are all criminalized. There are no statistics on enforcement of this crime.

1E. Has the Government prosecuted any cases against traffickers? If so, provide numbers of investigations, prosecutions, convictions and sentences, including details on plea bargains and fines, if relevant and available. Are the traffickers serving the time sentenced? If no, why not? Please indicate whether the Government can provide this information, and if not, why not? (Note: Complete answers to this section are essential. End Note.)

There have been no successful prosecutions of traffickers. Two cases are pending in the courts. In one case in the Court of Gabu, an uncle of a trafficked child was released by the court and ordered to find his brother, the child's father, as they are both implicated in trafficking. The father has not yet appeared, but if he does not, the court will summon the uncle to be tried within the next two months. The judge was confident the defendant would not flee and would return to face justice. In another case in Bafata, a man was accused by a mother of selling her child. The mother was so persistent, even taking her case to the National Popular Assembly, where she continues to demand justice, that the alleged trafficker was finally arrested. Due to poor health, he was released to house arrest after eight months detention and is awaiting trial. The child in that case, who disappeared 16 years ago, has never reappeared.

1F. Is there any information or reports of who is behind the trafficking? For example, are the traffickers freelance operators, small crime groups, and/or large international organized crime syndicates? Are employment, travel and tourism agencies or marriage brokers fronting for traffickers or crime groups to traffic individuals? Are government officials involved? Are there any reports on where profits from trafficking in persons are being channeled (e.g. armed groups, terrorist organizations, judges, banks, etc.)?

Marabouts from Senegal are the primary traffickers. They sometimes use intermediaries with community connections to recruit and transport children to Koranic schools. In most cases, they are known to communities in which they operate, AMIC and the police. Some have been photographed by police for the purpose of prevention. They operate in the open, protected by their stature in the Muslim community and the fact that most Bissau-Guinean and Senegalese politicians do not have the temerity to confront them. For example, the marabout implicated in the case described above involving a father and uncle is named Tcherno Babacar Djalo, DOB Jan. 9, 1946. His passport identification is on file with other court documents, but he is not a defendant in the case. The Bissau-Guinean Ambassador to Senegal can list several marabouts that traffic children; one of them is his cousin.

IG. Does the Government actively investigate cases of trafficking? (Again, the focus should be on trafficking cases versus migrant smuggling cases.) Does the Government use active investigative techniques in trafficking in persons investigations? To the extent possible under domestic law, are techniques such as electronic surveillance, undercover operations, and mitigated punishment or immunity for cooperating suspects used by the Government? Does the criminal procedure code or other laws prohibit the police from engaging in covert operations?

The Government does not actively investigate most cases of trafficking.

IH. Does the Government provide any specialized training for government officials on how to recognize, investigate and prosecute instances of trafficking?

The Government does not provide any special training on trafficking, but has said it would welcome any training that foreign governments or international organizations can provide.

II. Does the Government cooperate with other governments in the investigation and prosecution of trafficking cases? If possible, can post provide the number of cooperative international investigations on trafficking?

Guinea-Bissau is one of nine countries in the 15-member Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) that cooperate to combat trafficking in persons. Police in Gabu contacted police in Kolda, Senegal, in January 2006 to request assistance in identification of trafficked Bissau-Guinean children. This is a positive step that shows an increasing understanding of the need for cooperation in confronting TIP.

IJ. Does the Government extradite persons who are charged with trafficking in other countries? If so, can post provide the number of traffickers extradited? Does the Government extradite its own nationals charged with such offenses? If not, is the Government prohibited by law from extraditing its own nationals? If so, what is the Government doing to modify its laws to permit the extradition of its own nationals?

The Government is not prohibited from extraditing its nationals but has no record of being asked to do so for TIP.

IK. Is there evidence of government involvement in or tolerance of trafficking, on a local or institutional level? If so, please explain in detail.

There is no evidence of government involvement in TIP.

IL. If government officials are involved in trafficking, what steps has the Government taken to end such participation? Have any government officials been

prosecuted for involvement in trafficking or trafficking-related corruption? Have any been convicted? What actual sentence was imposed? Please provide specific numbers, if available.

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No GOGB officials are known to have been involved in trafficking.

IM. If the country has an identified child sex tourism problem (as source or destination), how many foreign pedophiles has the Government prosecuted or deported/extradited to their country of origin? Does the country's child sexual abuse laws have extraterritorial coverage (like the U.S. PROTECT Act)?

There is little tourism in Guinea-Bissau, and there are no reports of child sex tourism.

IN. Has the Government signed, ratified, and/or taken steps to implement the following international instruments? Please provide the date of signature/ratification if appropriate.

ILO Convention 182 concerning the prohibition and immediate action for the elimination of the worst forms of child labor.

No.

ILO Convention 29 and 105 on forced or compulsory labor.

Both ratified 21 February 1977.

The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

Signed September 8, 2000, and in the process of being ratified after the ANP was dissolved for a number of years.

The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime.

Signed December 14, 2000, but not yet ratified.

PARA 24. PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS:

IA. Does the Government assist victims, for example, by providing temporary to permanent residency status, relief from deportation, shelter and access to legal, medical and psychological services? If so, please explain. Does the country have victim care and victim health care facilities? If so, can post provide the number of victims placed in these care facilities?

A lack of resources keeps the Government from providing any services for victims besides basic transportation back from Senegal. Benevolent individuals, some with the Government, some with police, and some NGOs, provide most other assistance.

IB. Does the Government provide funding or other forms of support to foreign or domestic NGOs for services to victims? Please explain.

The Government contributes about USD 16,000 to AMIC's annual operating budget. It cooperates and coordinates closely with UNICEF, Save the Children (Dakar) and other foreign NGOs.

IC. Is there a screening and referral process in place, when appropriate, to transfer victims detained, arrested

or placed in protective custody by law enforcement authorities to NGO's that provide short- or long-term care?

Police in the primary source areas of Gabu and Bafata generally coordinate with AMIC to assist victims and locate parents.

ID. Are the rights of victims respected, or are victims also treated as criminals? Are victims detained, jailed, or deported? If detained or jailed, for how long? Are victims fined? Are victims prosecuted for violations of

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other laws, such as those governing immigration or prostitution?

Victims are not punished or persecuted in any way by anyone other than their traffickers.

IE. Does the Government encourage victims to assist in the investigation and prosecution of trafficking? May victims file civil suits or seek legal action against the traffickers? Does anyone impede the victims' access to such legal redress? If a victim is a material witness in a court case against the former employer, is the victim permitted to obtain other employment or to leave the country? Is there a victim restitution program?

Nothing impedes victims from seeking justice from their traffickers other than a cultural perception that marabouts are above the law.

IF. What kind of protection is the Government able to provide for victims and witnesses? Does it provide these protections in practice? What type of shelter or services does the Government provide? Does it provide shelter or any other benefits to victims for housing or other resources in order to aid the victims in rebuilding their lives? Where are child victims placed (e.g. in shelters, foster-care type systems or juvenile detention centers)?

See above.

IG. Does the Government provide any specialized training for government officials in recognizing trafficking and in the provision of assistance to trafficked victims, including the special needs of trafficked children? Does the Government provide training on protection and assistance to its embassies and consulates in foreign countries that are destination or transit countries? Does it urge those embassies and consulates to develop ongoing relationships with NGOs that serve trafficked victims?

The GOGB embassy in Senegal is a leader in the fight against trafficking. It coordinates closely with NGOs in Senegal and the Red Cross to identify, assist and repatriate victims. It uses its operating budget to fund assistance efforts and is reimbursed upon justification to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

IH. Does the Government provide assistance, such as medical aid, shelter, or financial help, to its repatriated nationals who are victims of trafficking?

The GOGB provides shelter, medical aid and food generally with the assistance of NGOs and the Red Cross.

II. Which internationals organizations or NGOs, if any, work with trafficking victims? What type of services do they provide? What sort of cooperation do they receive from local authorities?

NOTE: If post reports that a Government is incapable of assisting and protecting TIP victims, then post should explain thoroughly. Funding, personnel, and training constraints should be noted, if applicable. Conversely, a

lack of political will to address the problem should be noted as well.

As noted above, the Government has no funds to support even a modest victim assistance program. It relies heavily on international donor and NGO support not just for TIP assistance but for many basic functions of a government, including payment of civil service salaries. A non-exhaustive list includes the Red Cross, AMIC, RADDHO (Dakar), Save the Children (Dakar), UNICEF and the IOM.

¶5. (U) TIP officer for Guinea-Bissau, Gregory Holliday, who is resident in Dakar, Senegal, can be reached by telephone at 221-823-4296, x2415 and by e-mail at hollidaygx@state.gov. Embassy TIP officer spent approximately 50 hours preparing this year's TIP report. Our sole FSN in Bissau spent about 35 hours.

JACKSON